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THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1947

SECTION A

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions

Area 47,270 acres.
No. of inhabited houses 3,497.

Population (Registrar General's estimate) 12,050

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics of the Year

		M	F		
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	113	103	Live Birth Rate per 1,000, 18·9.	England & Wales, 20·5
	Illegitimate,	11	1		
	TOTAL ..	124	104		
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate,	6	4	Rate per 1,000 population, 0·91.	England & Wales, 0·50.
	Illegitimate,	1	0	Rate per 1,000 total births, 14·6.	
	TOTAL ..	7	4		
DEATHS	Male, ..		87	Death Rate Crude 16·4	England & Wales, 12·0
	Female		111		
	TOTAL ..		198		

(A) Number of Women dying in consequence of child-birth .. from sepsis .. 0; other causes .. 0; TOTAL .. 0

(B) Deaths of infants under one year of age. Legitimate 9, Illegitimate 1 .. .. Total 10
All infants per 1,000 live births, 43·8. England & Wales, 41
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births, 41·6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births, 83·3

(C) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .. M 11 F 15 .. .. .. Total 26

(D) ,, ,, Measles (all ages) .. .. .. M 0 F 0 .. .. .. Total 0

(E) ,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) .. M 0 F 1 .. .. .. Total 1

(F) ,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) M 0 F 0 .. .. .. Total 0

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services

A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.
Senior Sanitary Inspector—whole time—J. A. E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector—whole time—P. H. White, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

B. LABORATORY FACILITIES. No change.

Sanitary Conditions in the Area

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supplies

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer :—

"During the year ending 31st December, 1947, the mains water supplies in the Council's area have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and no shortage has been experienced. There were at the end of the year 1,998 houses connected to the mains supplies in the district, 880 having a laid-on supply and 1,118 being served by Standpipes situated in gardens.

"Five samples of water were analysed by Mr. Lincolne Sutton, F.I.C., Norwich, and were found to be of exceptional organic purity and excellent bacteriological quality, free from all trace of pollution and quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

"All supplies are sterilised by the use of Sodium Hypochlorite solution to 0·2 parts per million.

"Extensions of mains to the following Housing Sites were made during the year :—Lion Road Site, Glemsford, Back Lane Site, Long Melford, and the Nayland Road Site, Bures St. Mary.

"The consumption per head per day of the population served on the various schemes is as follows :—

"Central Area Scheme—

Serving the Parishes of Gt. Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Gt. Waldingfield, Newton and Assington. 21·39 gallons per head per day.

"Stoke-By-Nayland Scheme—

Serving the Parishes of Stoke and Nayland. 10·07 gallons per head per day.

"Glemsford Water Scheme—

13·26 gallons per head per day.

"Bures St. Mary Water Scheme—

"The water for this Parish is purchased in bulk from the Lexden and Winstree R.D. Council. 14·8 gallons per head per day.

"The total amount of water supplied by the Council during the year for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 55,154,300 gallons.

"Parishes of Shimpling and Lawshall. Carting—

"During the year 275,100 gallons of water were conveyed to the above mentioned Parishes from the mains supply at Long Melford."

Private Supplies

Waters from eleven private wells were sampled during the year. Five samples indicated that the wells were polluted. Four of these wells were cleaned out and a piped water supply laid on in place of the fifth.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There has been no change in the conditions described in last year's Report.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

In the middle of January, the second of the two refuse collection vehicles ordered by the Council began to operate, and since then the whole of the District has been serviced. With the exception of Long Melford, which has a weekly collection, house refuse is picked up once a fortnight. During the year 915 loads of refuse were collected. "Controlled" tipping has been possible at one disposal pit, but at the other two lack of suitable covering material has made this impracticable. Nuisance from rats and flies has been kept to the minimum by frequent disinfestation treatments.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING SERVICE

This service which provides one free emptying per house, per financial year, with a charge for any additional emptying, has been increasingly appreciated. A total of 398 cesspools were emptied; distributed geographically as follows :—

Acton	17
Alpheton	2
Assington	2
Bures St. Mary	9
Boxted	5
Chilton	2
Glemsford	7
Gt. Cornard	169
Gt. Waldingfield	14
Hartest	6
Lawshall	6
Lt. Cornard	7
Lt. Waldingfield	6
Long Melford	40
Nayland	27
Newton	10
Shimpling	–
Somerton	3
Stanstead	5
Stoke-By-Nayland	18
Glemsford Housing Site	9
Long Melford Housing Site	2
Outside District	32

In addition 69 privies were cleansed without charge and the pail closets at Gt. Cornard School were emptied weekly by arrangement with the West Suffolk County Education Committee.

The drawback to this service is the difficulty of finding suitable disposal points for the crude sewage contents of the Cleansing Unit.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION

The collection of night-soil in the Parish of Bures St. Mary continues to be carried out by a private contractor.

At the end of 1946, the Contractor responsible for this work for Long Melford retired from business and no other contractor was available. The Council decided to carry on the service by direct labour, and this was done throughout the year, a weekly collection being provided. It was also decided that as soon as practicable this service should be extended to include the Parishes of Gt. Cornard and Glemsford by the night-time use of the Cleansing Unit. The provision of suitable drying lagoons was authorized and a contract for their construction was in operation by the end of the year.

NUISANCES

Eighty-nine visits were made to investigate complaints of various nuisances. No statutory action was required.

HOUSING

Despite the difficulties arising from labour and material shortages and the curtailment of the issue of Building Licences, a number of much needed repairs were carried out as the result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspectors. A total of 155 visits were made, with an additional 98 made necessary by the Building Licence Regulations.

101 visits were made to check that new work was being carried out in accordance with the Council's Byelaws, and 22 sets of new drains were tested.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

During the year the Parishes of Bures St. Mary, Nayland, Lawshall, Hartest, Somerton, Boxted and Stoke-By-Nayland were completely surveyed, each house being placed in one of the following categories :—

Category 1. Houses reasonably fit in all respects.
,, 2. Houses needing minor repairs.
,, 3. Houses needing major repairs.
,, 4. Probably worthy of reconditioning.
,, 5. Impossible to repair at reasonable cost.

The following table gives the results for each of the above Parishes :—

PARISH	CATEGORIES					TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	5	
Bures St. Mary ..	30	97	82	11	20	240
Nayland	24	122	124	2	22	294
Lawshall	18	74	62	10	5	169
Hartest	7	66	45	10	2	130
Somerton	–	19	9	1	–	29
Boxted	5	37	5	–	1	48
Stoke-By-Nayland ..	31	117	133	7	16	304

The total number of houses surveyed during the years 1946 and 1947 is 3,081. The structural condition of these houses may be summarised as follows :—

Category 1	536
,, 2	1,234
,, 3	980
,, 4	121
,, 5	210

The following tables of comparative figures have been compiled on similar lines to those in last year's Annual Report.

It will be noted that for the purposes of comparison the figures show percentages of houses within each Parish.

Construction

PARISH	ROOF			WALLS	
	THATCH	TILES	SLATE	BRICK	STUD & PLASTER
Bures St. Mary	2	54	43	82	6
Nayland	4	66	30	65	7
Lawshall	20	58	20	56	42
Hartest	26	39	32	35	65
Somerton	62	31	–	52	48
Boxted	11	27	62	62	33
Stoke-By-Nayland ..	11	66	21	52	44

Accommodation provided

PARISH	NO. OF LIVING-ROOMS*		NO. OF BEDROOMS			
	1	2	1	2	3	4
Bures St. Mary	36	48	5	37	35	9
Nayland	54	36	3	36	29	14
Lawshall	68	35	4	33	47	9
Hartest	48	40	6	37	41	8
Somerton	72	21	21	48	14	17
Boxted	56	39	6	41	33	10
Stoke-By-Nayland ..	49	38	8	36	35	12

*Note : The term " living-room " does not include what is used as a kitchen or scullery.

Sanitation and Water Supply

PARISH	WATER SUPPLY			SANITATION					
	MAINS	DUG WELL	BORE WELL	WATER CLOSET	PAIL CLOSET	PRIVY	CESS-POOLS	SINKS	BATHS
Bures St. Mary ..	67	33	–	14	84	2	14	65	9
Nayland ..	54	41	1	11	76	13	22	69	8
Lawshall ..	–	69	3	11	75	14	21	67	10
Hartest ..	–	90	0·7	11	80	9	14	73	8
Somerton ..	–	76	7	27	62	11	20	55	10
Boxted ..	–	83	2	12	81	7	14	62	10
Stoke-by-Nayland	57	34	0·3	14	78	8	42	67	15

Methods of Lighting and Cooking

PARISH	LIGHTING			COOKING		
	ELECTRICITY	GAS	OIL	ELECTRICITY	GAS	OIL
Bures St. Mary ..	64	–	35	6	–	–
Nayland	57	–	42	7	–	5
Lawshall	5	–	92	1	–	15
Hartest	6	–	87	–	–	43
Somerton	7	–	90	–	–	31
Boxted	10	–	83	–	–	14
Stoke-By-Nayland ..	53	–	46	14	–	12

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Nine visits of inspection and supervision were made to enforce the requirements of the Council.

SECTION D

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Ministry of Food's Slaughterhouse at Bures St. Mary was visited on 232 occasions. 23,374 lbs. of carcase meat and 32,532 lbs. of offals were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Of these quantities 42,171 lbs. were affected with tuberculosis, including the entire carcases, with all offals, of 29 cows, 7 heifers, 4 steers, 2 calves and 2 pigs.

At the Bures Meat Distribution Depot 564½ lbs. of canned corned beef, 60 lbs. of canned corned mutton, 155¼ lbs. frozen beef and 2 frozen lamb carcases were condemned.

The following foodstuffs were condemned on wholesale and retail premises :—

Fresh Beef	54 lbs.
Frozen Beef	34 lbs.
Bacon	4 lbs.
Meat Preparations	33 tins
Fish Preparations	19 tins
Vegetable Preparations	41 tins
Milk (Evaporated or condensed)	197 tins
Fruit (Various)	10 tins
Soups	2 tins
Jams	16 tins
Currants	8½ lbs.
Fresh Fruit	1 case of grape-fruit
Biscuits	181½ lbs.
Kippers	6 stones

MILK PRODUCTION

Thirty-seven visits were made to cow-sheds and dairies.

SECTION E

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continues to exercise delegated powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. One full-time operator is employed. Results are calculated in accordance with the Ministry of Food's formula.

949 visits for survey and enquiry were made.

212 visits for baiting and poisoning.

3,488 rats estimated to have been killed.

The above figures include work carried out in the Council's refuse and night soil tips.

VERMIN DISINFESTATION

Eleven visits were made in connection with vermin. Mild infestations of fleas or bed-bugs were found and eradicated. No Council Houses were involved.

SECTION F

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

CASES NOTIFIED

CIVILIAN

DISEASE	NO. NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Poliomyelitis	2	2	0
Scarlet Fever	4	3	0
Puerperal Fever ..	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ..	22	0	0
Measles	125	0	0
Pneumonia	12	0	6
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Ophthalmia	1	0	0

AGE INCIDENCE

CIVILIAN

DISEASE	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & Over
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	6	12	8	9	22	58	4	—	2	2	2	—
Whooping Cough	4	3	2	2	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

No non-civilian notifications.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Notifications 11 ; Pulmonary 10 ; Non-Pulmonary 1 ; Transfers into District 2 both of Pulmonary Disease.

No Non-Civilian Notifications.

AGE INCIDENCE

NEW CASES

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F
Under one year	..	..	..	..
1—	..	..	..	..
5—	..	..	..	..
10—	..	..	..	..
15—	..	1	..	..
20—	1	1	..	..
25—	1	2	..	1
35—	2	2	..	..
55—	..	1	..	..
65 and over	..	..	..	..
Total ..	4	7	0	1
	11		1	

Deaths : Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. M 1, F 3, Total 4 } 4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis M 0, F 0, Total 0 }

R. W. RIX, M.O.H.

Payn, Essex & Son, Ltd. Sudbury